

Thanksgiving Day, calling on Congress to come back into session and approve the gas tax increase.

We have the opportunity for such leadership today. My proposed gas tax increase, H.R. 680, is supported by all the major interest groups: unions, the Chamber of Commerce, truckers, AAA, transit, local government, environmentalists, engineers, and contractors.

The same approach has been used in 20 States since 2012 to raise transportation revenues. Six States have raised the gas tax already this year, six red Republican States. It is simple. My bill would provide the money necessary to actually pass a 6-year bill. It would be sustainable so we wouldn't be back in the same pickle in a year, 2 years, or 5 years.

Finally, it is dedicated so people can count upon it to implement the steps necessary to rebuild and renew America's infrastructure.

It is time to stop temporizing, and it is time to act. Filling the highway trust fund with borrowed money inadequate to do the job but enough to avoid responsibility is not a solution that we can be proud of, especially when America is ready and Ronald Reagan pointed the way.

AFTER 45 SEASONS, 50 CONSECUTIVE WINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate St. Cloud Cathedral High School baseball coach Bob Karn on being named not only the Regional Coach of the Year, but also the Diamond National Coach of the Year, by the American Baseball Coaches Association.

Under Coach Karn's direction, the Crusaders have won 50 consecutive games, and this year, they celebrated their second straight State title. These impressive statistics are nothing new for Coach Karn. Karn has coached a total of 45 seasons, and under his leadership, Cathedral has a record of 736-237 and nine State championships.

Coach Karn, you have made a lasting impact on the lives of your players, and they will no doubt use all you have taught them wherever they go. Your team, your school, and your community have all benefited from your leadership.

Thank you so much for everything that you do. Keep up the excellent work, and best of luck next season.

ACCOUNTABLE REGULATION, NOT MORE REGULATION

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the REINS Act.

In my time in Congress, one message I consistently hear at home is Washington is not listening to the people. Unelected, nameless bureaucrats continue to impose harmful and burdensome regulation on the American people.

In total, compliance with Federal regulation costs \$1.8 trillion a year. These regulations are devastating to small business and cost American families nearly \$15,000 a year.

Using the REINS Act, the new Congress has stepped up to the plate. Under the REINS Act, major rules from Federal agencies would require congressional approval before enactment. Through Congress, the American people would have up to 70 days to view a major rule before it is ever called for a vote. To prevent long legal challenges, courts are allowed to ensure agencies have adhered to all necessary requirements before final implementation.

Finally, the REINS Act allows for Congress to disapprove of any minor rule, thus holding this administration accountable and protecting against a runaway Federal Government.

I am a proud cosponsor of the REINS Act, which restores the democratic process in favor of those who originally formed our government, the people.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this vital legislation.

TRANSPORTATION IS OUR FUTURE

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, transportation is the key to the future economic growth of my district and our Nation.

For years, the Federal highway trust fund has run deficits and fostered an environment of waste and frivolous spending. This week, Congress is poised to pass another short-term fix. While I applaud the efforts of Chairmen RYAN and SHUSTER, my constituents need long-term answers and solutions to the transportation gridlock and congestion that stifles growth and expansion.

Projects in my district, such as Interstate 94, which is one of the most congested corridors in the region, are slowing development and cost commuters valuable time and money while they are stuck in traffic. U.S. Highway 10 has become such an issue that cities are placing moratoriums on new business development.

Mr. Speaker, this is a travesty, and my constituents have every right to be frustrated. I call upon this body to work to pass a long-term funding bill and give our constituents the certainty they deserve in their transportation system.

ONE OF ST. CLOUD'S FINEST IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S STRONGEST

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Cloud's own Nick Tylutki for his second-place finish at the International Powerlifting Federation World Championship in Salo, Finland.

This past year, after topping 108 competitors, Nick won the national title and a ticket to the world championship in Finland. With eight previous world championships under his belt, Nick finished higher than ever before, coming just shy of completing a 744-pound deadlift for the gold.

In addition to his successful powerlifting career, Nick is also a St.

Cloud police officer and SWAT team operator. As a child, Nick dreamed of becoming a police officer, and that dream was realized 7 years ago when he joined the St. Cloud police force.

I congratulate Nick on his impressive silver medal at the world championship, and I thank him for his service as one of St. Cloud's finest.

MARKING THE OCCASION OF THE "NEW HORIZONS" SPACECRAFT REACHING PLUTO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to mark the occasion of the *New Horizons* spacecraft reaching Pluto.

New Horizons launched on January 19, 2006, and since 2007, has been traveling steadily at 30,000 miles per hour. This morning, at approximately 7:49:57 a.m., the *New Horizons* spacecraft rendezvoused with Pluto, three billion miles away from Earth. Having just passed Pluto this morning, *New Horizons* will continue on in the Kuiper belt.

Standing here as the spacecraft just passed Pluto, I take great pride in noting that a Massachusetts astronomer helped in the discovery of its existence. While Clyde Tombaugh formally discovered Pluto, it was Boston astronomer Percival Lowell's calculations that led the way. The P and the L that make the astronomical symbol for Pluto serve as a testament to Lowell's part in the discovery of this small planet.

Lowell's contribution to astronomy also stands today with the establishment of the Lowell Observatory located in Flagstaff, Arizona. Percival Lowell inspired countless generations with his advocacy of astronomy, and more than 80,000 visitors each year go through the doors of the observatory.

I am certainly proud to have known Lowell's descendants, the Putnam family, for years; and I admire their continued advocacy of the Lowell Observatory.

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New Horizons is the first in the "New Frontiers" series, inspired by another son of Massachusetts, President John Kennedy, who said about the need to explore space: "We set sail on this new sea because there is a new knowledge to be gained, new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people."

President Kennedy's support of our Nation's first space program set us on course for hope and optimism for our future.

New Horizons' accomplishment this morning, along with other initiatives such as the International Space Station, which I am very proud to say that I supported and recall that in this institution, the space station survived by

one vote at a precarious time in our history. It serves today as a strong reminder of the continued importance of space exploration and the very smart people that are drawn to this initiative.

I also want to close by saying that I would hope that we might remind ourselves of the optimism of the Kennedy years and the space exploration program which Kennedy highlighted and helped to inaugurate but which he never got to see many of the benefits of, a sentiment that all Members of Congress should grasp, and that is that the candidate who offers the best sense of optimism for the future is generally the candidate that prevails. During the course of a campaign when one makes arguments on behalf of a particular initiative, we are also to understand that it is part of forming a government. So optimism becomes infectious in our political system when embraced properly.

I hope today, as we celebrate this remarkable achievement of *New Horizons* and just the thought that that spacecraft travels at 30,000 miles per hour and the fact, at 3 billion miles from Earth, America's science, achievement, and initiative have once again prevailed in this world, that we will continue to support these space initiatives and embrace the notion and the role that science plays in our lives.

Thank you Percival Lowell, and thank you President John Kennedy.

CUT ILLEGAL ALIEN LABOR SUPPLY THAT COSTS AMERICAN JOBS AND SUPPRESSED INCOMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Democrat Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton unveiled her economic program stating: "The defining economic challenge of our time is clear. We must raise incomes for hard-working Americans so they can afford a middle class life. We must drive strong and steady income growth that lifts up families"; and, "The measure of our success must be how much incomes rise for hard-working families."

Clinton concluded that: "If you work hard and do your part, you should be able to get ahead. But over the past several decades, that bargain has eroded."

Hillary Clinton identifies the problem and goals; however, I submit her trickle-down Federal Government dictates solution, while splendid rhetoric, misses the target entirely.

What changed over the past several decades that eroded the American dream?

Three decades ago, America gave amnesty to millions of illegal aliens. That amnesty beget millions and millions in more illegal aliens. This illegal alien tsunami has done more to take jobs from and suppress wages of struggling American families than anything else over the past three decades.

The Pew Hispanic Center established in 2009 that American workers lost 7.8 million job opportunities to illegal aliens. A more recent FAIR study estimates Americans lost 8.5 million job opportunities to illegal aliens.

Economic studies reveal that wage suppression caused by the surge in cheap, illegal alien labor costs American high school graduates an estimated \$800 per year and America's low-skilled labor an estimated \$2,300 per year in income. But it is not just illegal alien labor that undermines American opportunity and the American Dream for American citizens.

America's generous legal immigration policy created a second tsunami of legal foreign labor that doubles the economic damage to struggling American families. Census Bureau, Homeland Security, and Labor Department data offers a startling and sobering insight for Americans in the 16-65 age bracket.

While the American economy created 5.6 million net new jobs in the 16-65 age bracket over the past 14 years, American-born citizens lost 127,000 net jobs. All net job gains and more went to illegal and legal immigrants. While American-born citizens lost 127,000 jobs, foreign-born persons gained 5.7 million jobs.

Worse yet, when you factor in population growth, there were 17 million more Americans in the 16-65 age bracket not working in 2014 than in 2000.

Contrary to the propaganda of amnesty and open border proponents and their media allies, immigrants gained across the labor market in lower skilled jobs, such as maintenance, construction, and food service, and middle skilled jobs, like office support and healthcare support, and higher skilled jobs, including management, computers, and healthcare practitioners.

The propaganda that immigrants only do jobs Americans won't do is not supported by fact. Immigrants gained jobs while Americans lost jobs in each of the following high-paying industries: architecture, engineering, transportation and material moving, office and administrative support.

Further, American-born citizens of all major races lost ground. The percentage of working African Americans dropped 9.2 percentage points; Hispanic Americans dropped 7.7 percentage points; Caucasian Americans dropped 6.1 percentage points.

In a dig at Jeb Bush, Clinton added that Americans "don't need a lecture, they need a raise."

Mr. Speaker, Hillary Clinton is right. America does not need lectures. America needs solutions. And the number one job and economic solution for Americans is securing America's borders and implementing a rational immigration policy that reflects economic conditions and protects American jobs and American wages for struggling American families.

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, over 125,000 people flocked to Pennsylvania's Fifth District to attend the 49th annual Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, affectionately known as Arts Fest.

Every July, people gather in State College, Pennsylvania, to enjoy works of art, live music, and great foods. Arts Fest is home to one the Nation's premier outdoor fine art and craft shows, and hosts over 300 exhibitors.

Now, these artists, ranging from international talent to local artists, display a wide variety of art that fits any and all interests. Live musical performances also take place throughout the weekend at a number of venues.

Arts Fest strives to instill an interest and appreciation of the arts in the area's youth through performances for young people by young people.

Mr. Speaker, as co-chairman of the Congressional Art Competition, I rise in strong support of the arts, and it is my honor to recognize all the volunteers and the staff who did such a great job of putting on this year's Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts.

STOP IRAN DEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, Congress, at this juncture, has one overriding task, and that is to stop President Obama's capitulation to Iran. Make no mistake, this is less a deal than it is a list of concessions to the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. And there is a reason why you see smiles on the ayatollahs in Tehran and Javad Zarif in Vienna.

Congress should stop this deal because it gives billions of dollars to the Iranian regime, which Iran will use to foment jihad and terrorism throughout the Middle East. Congress should stop this deal because it validates Iran's entire nuclear infrastructure—no dismantling, not even Iran's underground nuclear bunker at Fordo, which has no rational peaceful purpose.

Indeed, Iran is crossing all of President Obama's red lines. President Obama had said you could not have Fordo, he said you could not have a plutonium reactor in Iraq. He said you could not have advanced centrifuges because there is no peaceful purpose for any of those, and yet this final deal validates each and every one of those pieces of Iran's nuclear arsenal.

Congress should stop this deal because it removes sanctions from Iran's Quds force and its commander, Qasem Soleimani, who are responsible for killing hundreds of American soldiers in